



Reduce the Risk of Home Fires during the Holidays

During the holiday season, don't be too busy to be safe! Reduce the risk of home fires by following these important safety tips:

Holiday Trees

- Do not use candles on or near the tree.
- Place the tree away from heat sources such as fireplaces and heaters.
- If you have a live tree, keep it in a sturdy base filled with water. Check the water level every day.
- Safely dispose of your tree before it becomes dangerously dry. Never burn the tree or tree parts in your fireplace.

Holiday Lights

- Use "UL" approved lights.
- Examine all indoor and outdoor lights for frayed cords and replace if necessary.
- Lights should not touch combustible materials.
- "Indoor" lights should never be used outdoors.
- Avoid using extension cords, but if you do, follow instructions carefully.
- Do not overload electrical circuits such as wall outlets and extension cords. Use a circuit strip.

Holiday Gift Wrap

- Keep papers, bows and trims away from heat sources such as fireplaces, space heaters, radiators, etc.
- Never burn gift wrappings in your fireplace.

Fireplaces and Wood Stoves

- Have chimney or wood stove inspected and cleaned by a certified chimney specialist.
- Leave glass doors open while burning a fire to prevent creosote buildup.
- Install a stovepipe thermometer to help monitor flue temperature.

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